

REMARKS/RECOMMENDATIONS

The claims are 15, 19, 20, 22, and 32. Claim 15 has been amended to more clearly define the invention by reciting that the materials having release properties are extruded together with the single layer plastic film without a "support layer", i.e. with no support layer other than the self-carrying single layer plastic film itself. In addition, claim 32 has been amended to recite that the plastic film has a thickness of about 5 μm , as recited in claim 22. Support for the claims may be found, inter alia, in the disclosure at page 3, line 4 and page 4, lines 14-15. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 15, 19, 20 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Wilkie (US 5,981,047). Claims 15 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Higgins (US 5,932,352). Essentially the Examiner has taken the position that Wilkie and Higgins meets the "self-carrying" limitation recited in the claims in light of the specification and the explanation provided in Applicant's Preliminary Amendment in RCE where it was stated that claim 15 as it then appeared was a self-carrying film which could be extruded together with additional layers.

In response, Applicant has amended claim 15 to more clearly recite that no additional support layer is necessary with Applicant's self-carrying plastic film as the single layer film may be extruded with the materials having release properties without a support layer. It should also be noted that claim 15

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differs from claim 15 as it appeared in the Preliminary Amendment as it recites a "single layer" plastic film. Hence, in contrast to Wilkie and Higgins, no additional support layer is necessary in Applicant's single layer plastic film as recited in claim 15, which it is respectfully submitted is neither disclosed nor suggested by either Wilkie and Higgins which are constructed of several layers and have no mechanical firmness in the sense of a self-carrying film. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that neither Wilkie nor Higgins anticipates claims 15, 19, 20 and 22.

With respect to claim 32, which was rejected as anticipated only on Wilkie, Applicant has amended this claim to incorporate the thickness limitation previously recited in claim 22, therefore obviating the rejection.

In summary, claims 15 and 32 have been amended. In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the final rejection and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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